

**NSN Telecon: The New Night Sky Network  
Vivian White and David Prosper  
April 28, 2014  
8:00 pm CT**

Coordinator: Welcome and thank you for standing by. At this time all participants are in a listen-only mode. During the Q and A session you may press star 1 on your touchtone phone if you would like to ask a question. Today's conference is being recorded. If you have any objections you may disconnect at this time. Now I would like to turn your meeting over to Ms. Vivian White. Ms. White you may begin.

Vivian White: Thank you so much. Hi everybody - it's Vivian and Dave Prosper...

Dave Prosper: Hey.

Vivian White: From the NASA Night Sky Network and it's funny to be here live talking to you - and see myself on screen. I wish I could see all of you. We're here at Astronomical Society of Pacific in San Francisco, California and we're excited to present some new and improved features to the Night Sky Network website.

We're hoping to make it easier for you all to log your events and put some upcoming - and include - well, when we have these upcoming updates to the

Night Sky Network page it's going to be mobile friendly and you're going to be able to interface much more - so we hope it's a lot easier for you to use.

So it's important to note that this teleconference will be in a slightly different format than usual - we still have our NASA call-in information so I hope you're all called-in there. However, you should also be online so you can join the webinar and clearly you are if you're - well I guess if you're hearing me you're joining on the call-in. If you're seeing me you can see me on the webinar. So there two different places - we'll be online and then calling in as well.

So the Telecon will just be in a webcast format - it will be recorded so you will be able to share it with others later. If you're not already registered for the web chat part and you're just listening to me over the phone - you can go to [astrosociety.org/nsntelecon](http://astrosociety.org/nsntelecon) and that will let you register right now. So that's [astrosociety.org/telecon](http://astrosociety.org/telecon).

Okay, so - and to view the webinar if you're not already there - just go to your registration email if you've already registered and click on the link posted in there to join now. And if you experience any problems along the way feel free to email us at [nightskyinfo@astrosociety.org](mailto:nightskyinfo@astrosociety.org).

So for a brief minute we want to hear from you all joining us. This time instead of opening up the lines on the phone you can check-in with us over the chat feature in the GoToWebinar's control feature. So you're looking at the GoToWebinar viewer if you're looking at me. There's also a control panel that's a separate window. So if you guys find that - at the bottom of that is a chat window. Go ahead and type a message in and let us know who you are out there. Let's see if this works.

Dave Prosper: It would be underneath your current screen.

Vivian White: It might be underneath the current screen - the webinar viewer. I'm not seeing anyone on there. Anyone? Anyone? Well that's not working.

Dave Prosper: Bueller?

Vivian White: Well that's not working - that's a bummer. Okay - well why don't we go ahead and open the lines and - do we have our helpful teleconference woman come back?

Coordinator: Yes, I'm here. Do you want to ask questions at this time?

Vivian White: Is there any way you could just open up the lines for everybody to tell us who they are? It will only take a minute or so.

Coordinator: Yes, absolutely - one second please.

Vivian White: Okay thanks.

Willie Yee: Hi, this is Willie Yee with Mid-Hudson Astronomical Association.

Vivian White: Hi Willie.

Marni Berendsen: Marni Berendsen - Mount Diablo Astronomical Society.

Dave Prosper: Hey.

Teresa Lappin: (Terri) Lappin - Tucson Amateur Astronomy Association.

((Crosstalk))

Patrick O'Brien: Hello Vivian and David this is Patrick O'Brien from the Darien O'Brien Astronomy Club in Lakewood, Colorado.

Dave Prosper: Awesome.

Vivian White: Hey Patrick.

Patrick O'Brien: I like your pictures, but I can't figure out how to do anything - what you just mentioned.

Vivian White: With the chat? Yes, I can see we're having troubles with that. I'm not sure what that is. Luckily, it's not the website - this is just a teleconference.

Andee Sherwood: Hi, this is Andee from the Los Angeles Astronomical Society.

Vivian White: Andee.

Andee Sherwood: Hi (unintelligible).

George Reynolds: Hi this is George Reynolds from the Back Bay Amateur Astronomers in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Vivian White: Excellent.

Dave Prosper: Awesome.

Linda Prince: This is Linda Prince from the AOS in New York - Long Island.

((Crosstalk))

Dave Prosper:     Awesome - hi there.

Man:                Hi (Linda).

Linda Prince:     Hi, thanks for the responses from the email.

Man:                Oh, you're welcome.

Eileen Gryzbowski:   Eileen Gryzbowski from Norman North Astronomy in Norman,  
                          Oklahoma.

Vivian White:     Hi Eileen - great to hear from you.

Janie Schwab:     From the Albany Area Amateur Astronomers.

Vivian White:     Hi.

Larry Slosberg:   This is Larry Slosberg from Central New York Observers in Syracuse, New  
                          York.

Vivian White:     Great to hear you.

John Gallagher:   John Gallagher from the Hawaiian Astronomical Society - the land of the  
                          pineapple and hula.

Vivian White:     Hi John.

Jim Tallman:     Jim Tallman was Back Bay Amateur Astronomers - hey George.

George Reynolds: Hey Jim.

Jim Tallman: I'm in Pensacola this week.

Vivian White: Oh - joining us from all over. That's great.

Dave Prosper: Great - awesome.

Steve Dulaney: This is Steve Dulaney.

Vivian White: Oops - sorry.

Steve Dulaney: Yes, this is Steve Dulaney. I'm from Night Sky 45 up here in Salem, Oregon.

Vivian White: All right - so maybe we'll go ahead and close up the lines if that's everybody.

Stan Nelson: Yes, I checked in a little late. This is Stan Nelson with the Roswell Astronomy Club in Roswell, New Mexico.

Vivian White: Hey Stan. Welcome.

Stan Nelson: Hello.

Woman: One more.

Marie Lott: This is Marie Lott with the Charlie Elliott Astronomy down in Atlanta, Georgia.

Vivian White: So great to hear all of you.

Ron Schmit: This is Ron Schmit from Eisenhower Astronomy Club in Hopkins, Minnesota.

Vivian White: Hi Ron. All right - I think we'll go ahead and close the lines back up and we'll get started with the rest of the telecon.

Coordinator: Okay - one second please.

Vivian White: Thanks.

Dave Prosper: (Unintelligible).

Coordinator: And all lines have been closed at this time.

Vivian White: Excellent. If this is your first teleconference with us - welcome. And if it's your 50th teleconference with us we're glad to have you as well. Marni this could very well be your 50th teleconference with us. Just go ahead and - you don't have to do much for this one. Just listen - and we're trying to get the chat window started working again. I'll let you know if we have any changes to that. Otherwise you'll be able to - there will be a Q and A session at the end where you can ask questions of us.

And so - don't forget also to stick around for a minute after the presentation because there is - we're going to be giving away a prize that I have a copy of. Do you want to show them Dave? Observatories of the Southwest - a guide for serious - oh wait. No, this is this one.

Man: Oh - there's another prize actually coming up.

Vivian White: There's another prize coming up soon. This is Observatories of the Southwest: A Guide for Curious Skywatchers. A great book by Douglas Isabelle and Stephen Strom and that's courtesy of the University of Arizona Press. Thank you very much. It includes how to join tours for these famous observatories and public events and more information. So if you have summer trips planned this would be a good one to start with or maybe to plan next summer's trip.

So then for a brief minute - the latest Night Sky Network news we're going to go through in addition to this new update for the website. It's also the time of year to log your events. Please remember - schedule your events in the Night Sky Network public calendar and then also log them to qualify for - just exactly what Dave has up on the screen right here. The second viewers that are - look at the spectrum of indoor and outdoor lighting. It's really a good way to talk about light pollution and see what kind of lights that you've got in your community.

So we're going to be shipping out toolkits to qualify clubs in the beginning of May. So log those events held using the Night Sky Resources that were held from January 1 to March 31. Hi David. Make sure to get your upcoming events and your calendars as well because our new website is going to be heavily publicized and we want your events shown off to the world.

We - let's see - we're also developing some new toolkits. So if your club has already all the NSN toolkits - hang in there more are on the way. I'll give you a hint - the newest one I'm working on is for the insight mission to Mars. So stay tuned soon for - we'll send out some questionnaires about what your interests are around that.

And - I said the quarterly prizes you see there - the spectrum viewers. So ten lucky clubs are going to receive those spectrum viewers - the more events you



log the more chances your club has to win. And at that I think I'm going to hand this over to Dave and he's going to tell us all about the new Night Sky Network website. It's not up yet, but it will be soon. Thanks Dave.

Dave Prosper: You're welcome.

Vivian White: Ready?

Dave Prosper: Okay - now we are at the main part of our presentation. Hi everyone - again. And may have gotten chat working - not sure. This is our first time using this so apologies. I think making a panel has helped.

Vivian White: Oh.

Dave Prosper: Yes, right-click and there's a panel list. Sorry

Vivian White: Okay.

Dave Prosper: So, anyway, we'll be sharing our screens - as you can see I'm showing you the new website as well as the different ways you can use it. Many things remain similar to the old version of the Night Sky Network, but we think you're going to like some of the changes we have made to the site to make easier to navigate. We will walk you through some of them now.

And, yes, again this is not available - this is not live at the time, but will be very soon. And, yes, now one of the most important new features is the new mobile friendly design. You will be able to easily access the features of the Night Sky Network on your smartphone, tablet or computer. And now with that we're going to turn our webcams off so we can fill up the screen with the

(unintelligible) our website - our special touch version and we'll be back on afterwards. As I find my webcam button - there we go.

Okay, so here we go. Now first we're going to start off with the desktop version of the site and after we finish that we will then do a brief overview of the mobile site and then followed by your questions. This should hopefully take about 45 minutes or so - if not less.

Okay, so here we are at the homepage and as you can see it looks strikingly different than before. We will briefly go over what the public will see first and then we will take you to what it looks like to you as NSN Club Coordinators. When you first get to the Night Sky Network homepage you will see the current featured article here and on the right-hand side you'll see the current location - or you can enter any other location you'd like for the US. Along the top you'll see our banner (unintelligible) changed with a place for you to login on the right-hand side. And then you'll see there's a list of links below the banner for clubs and events, the Night Sky Planner, outreach resources and about the network. We consolidated some of our earlier navigation to make it less confusing and easier to use.

Clicking on the NSN banner will always bring you back to the homepage -in case you ever get lost you can reset yourself there. And now scrolling down you will see that featured article and a little set of tabs that you can use to toggle through the most recent featured public articles. Below that you'll see the planned outreach resources, which are - it's the featured resource for the month or week or however it gets updated. And the Night Sky Planner is below that with a featured post from Earth Sky Every Day and current sun and moon data as well. And now let's go back to the top and we'll see some more excellent new features.

One of our favorite new features is that you can see that below the name of the town - in our case San Francisco - is a list of clubs and events in our area that kind of just auto-populates. Our hope is that it helps the general public be more aware of clubs and events near them. If you are a club member it may also help you see what the other clubs are up to as well.

Below that we have the Night Sky Network widget. It is designed for use on club webpages as well as community webpages that want to link to astronomy events. Then you will see the starts in the network and the join the network information block. So let's start with an example as the member of the general public.

They load up the page - they see this Night Sky Network page and they say oh I want to see about clubs and events. They click on the clubs and events link that's up on the right-hand side and this will present them with the grand view of the calendar and listening of clubs and events in the area. There's not as much data in here as is on the current one because you might have noticed it is a little bit old - we're testing still. Yes - so what happens is the list of events in the area defaults to about clubs and events within 100 miles of the current location. The club locations are also listed on a Google Map below the calendar.

So maybe they want to know more about a particular event. What they can do is they can click on any one of these events and it will take you to that event's page with a link to the club itself. This all works with mobile devices too by the way - more on that shortly.

So let's take a closer look at what your page will look like to the general public. When they see your club they will see your club's logo and information as well as a row of links to your club's website, events, locations

and a contact club link. Each club can also decide whether or not to include links to requested events, join club and register as a Night Sky Network member in their club setup options.

On the right-hand side they see upcoming events for your club. So make sure your club's events are listed - your club's contact info will also be visible on the main club page as well as any additional details you wish to add. I know that many of you listening in are Club Coordinators so now we will log in to the Night Sky Network as a Club Coordinator.

Okay, keep in mind that if you're a Club Member, but not a Club Coordinator you will not see some of these options, but the navigation works the same. Once you're logged in you will see a new link on the top strip called My Club. By hovering over that link you will see a dropdown menu that allows your Club Members to add an event or to add their volunteer hours. By clicking on the main My Club link you will be brought to your club's NSN homepage.

We will review the links available on your club's Night Sky Network page now. We now see the additional links available to you as a coordinator - including your club's roster and a set of options for managing that, your Night Sky Network profile and a dropdown list of options as well and also message groups that you may be assigned to or would like to manage.

Club Coordinators have access to all of these Club Manager features. You should also take note that many items that used to be on the left-hand side - over here on the old site - are just moved over here on the right. Club Coordinators can see their club's open items - including events ready to log, event requests, pending event logs for approval and member sign-up requests as well. And all members have access to NSN resources right below that - including requesting outreach handouts - if their club is active, discounted

astronomy magazine subscriptions, instructional videos - such the sharing at universities and growing your astronomy club videos, finding Night Sky Network members, number of frequently asked questions and help - which we'll be updating very shortly. So now let's check out the events management.

We have been working hard to make this a lot simpler for everyone and easier and more intuitive to you - so hopefully we did it. It should be noted that while most of these pages are optimized for both mobile and desktops - some of the more advanced features will be a lot easier on a desktop - especially if you want a lot of descriptions to your events or event logs - it's like typing a novel on your tablet versus using a keyboard. So you could just get your kids to do that.

However, regardless, everything should still work fine on both the mobile and desktop versions of the new site, bug reports notwithstanding and we'll get to that at the end.

First off, let's start by adding an event. One way to add an event is to go to events and in the dropdown click add-log an event - and here we go. Once in the add event form you'll need to fill in the date, time and location section here first, which includes the title and whatever else you'd like to do, but it needs to - the asterisks - so you need the name of your event, you'll need to pick an event type - which is club, community or observing event and you will also - let's see what else is here. Oh - set your date, of course and the start time.

Pick whatever you want to us - if it's a public calendar or it's a club calendar or is a private club calendar. And this is something we're kind of happy about and I think a lot of you will be.

One of the most requested options for this event location feature has been a dropdown menu so we can clearly see where your locations are at and not have to worry about the weird typing hopefully it brings it up thingy. And you can also click to add a new location and it's very similar to how the old one worked as well - so we also have some updated - a little bit of updated zip code and other information, which should make it a little smoother as well.

So after all of this is done and you can submit your changes and all that you currently see is greyed out is then available because the other options - like to RSVP, to do a submit web-links and attachments and to log the event. So once this is all set and you've filled it out until your heart is content you can hit submit and it will be entered into the event queue.

Members will need to have their event approved by a club coordinator before it goes live. And if you're a club coordinator you can just approve your own event by clicking scheduled.

So now let's look at logging events. So we're going to find an event here - oh there's 30 events ready to log - easy. Okay, so let us take a look at - let's do (unintelligible) - this is fun.

So you go to your event page by clicking on the event as you just saw. So click on the event you'd like them to log in, which in this case we selected the St. Perpetua Catholic School Star Party and after that you can click on the button to log this event. So now you're in the event log. You can choose your primary organizer - this is all very similar to before.

Vivian White: Yes.

Dave Prosper: Now - let's see here. One second (unintelligible).

Okay so, yes, this is just like before. It looks a little different, but the biggest thing you'll notice is near the bottom. So we have these little compressed bars here. One for toolkits used, one for topics covered, demographics and photos.

So the one thing we like to request, especially, is the toolkit logging is especially important to us as we love to know what toolkits used as that helps with the funding - it makes our sponsors happy to know that their science is being shown to the public and makes your clubs eligible for more toolkits and great prizes as well.

You can also log your volunteer hours. This is handy just so the club coordinator knows how many hours people have worked in events and what kind of mileage you've been racking up and so on. It's also handy for yourself. Fortunately, I like to know how much work I've done over the year. It really adds up. This also helps determine your own club's awards. To add your volunteer hours you can add them in several ways. We'll start by - you can choose to add them by adding them from the event itself. Let's go back to the main event page - let's cheat here.

Woman: (Unintelligible).

Man: Oh yes. So we're going to - you can click on add my volunteer hours. There are other options too - such as from my club you can click on add my volunteer hours and you can also add them by going to your profile - we'll just skip over here. You go to my profile - you can just go add my volunteer hours that way too. Especially - this is a little handier especially - say you did stuff that's not related to an event - so fixed a telescope or what not.

Now there's a few other little options that you can see here - oh one second, we'll go back to that event page.

So we have these buttons here - along with edit, log the event and add my volunteer hours - we also have the options displayed to delete this event, duplicate this event and to create an event message. Then you can also view the event change history and the message history if needed. And there are no changes since it was just submitted.

If you have more questions about the events - and I'm sure everyone will - this is - it looks a bit different. We can take them at the end or answer them in the chat or by emailing your questions to [nightskyinfo@astrosociety.org](mailto:nightskyinfo@astrosociety.org). And so now let's take a quick look at the outreach resources link.

So what about materials for your clubs? Did you lose that manual for the space rocks toolkit? Well we have everything ready here in our outreach materials section as before. You can find activities and resources just by - by just keyword or category or regular search. As you can see we've got kind of this similar dropdown theme going on here. And as well you can sort everything - sort your search by audience levels, venues - such as daytime or nighttime events, indoors events and educator types - such as scouts, amateur astronomy, nature centers and etcetera.

We also have a nice new activity key as well you can see displayed under the universe in different light here. And the actual key key is right here. This is kind of a more advanced version of what the public sees on the outreach resources. So when you're logged in you get access to all these advanced search features as well and this is if you're a club member or a coordinator.



So on the main section of the resource page we also have a featured activity as well as popular activities and resources underneath. So - and one other thing is we combined another section with this. So we have some more resources from NASA and partners, which were formerly listed under the amateur resources section of the old site. Now they share space to the bottom right here with our outreach resources. And that was actually a personal happy thing for me. I kept clicking on the wrong link every time.

So this is a very basic overview of the website. A lot of it is the same. A lot of it still looks a little different or cleaner, but we're now going to do a quick look at the mobile version. And since we don't have our little go to meeting on the phone we're just going to show a few screen shots that we put on imager and I added a few new ones today. Everything kind of dynamically resizes to whatever screen - actually I have the dreaded Windows 8 computer and I can actually show you a little bit right here - like that. So that's kind of interesting.

Vivian White: It resizes depending on what kind of screen you're on?

Dave Prosper: Exactly.

Vivian White: Nice.

Dave Prosper: So here we see an image of what the public would see when they first go to the NSN homepage from their phone or tablet for Android, Kindle Fire - whatever. Events and clubs in their area will be displayed as well - same as before. And this allows them to easily find you and your events as they're hopping around. Especially the case if you're on a road trip this works for you too.

And so this is the view you'll have once you've logged in to your club. So you'll see in this top right section here these three navigation bars. When you tap on them it brings up this dropdown menu that just kind of explodes out all the other options we explored earlier. So, yes, that's kind of the key to navigating here. Just press the three little bars and you get all the extra goodies. And actually another nice thing is in fact if you're lucky enough to have an internet connection on your device at your event, which is, you know, sometimes people do sometimes don't and it is often very isolated - so, but what you could do to save time and everything and a bit of your standing is you can log your hours right from the event itself if you wish.

So we were really excited to offer these mobile options in addition to - like we'll just go down here and show a little bit more of this. You can see the events here as your club and then under here you can log or add your volunteer hours under each event just highlighted. And - oops I dynamically resized it.

Vivian White: That's on the computer not on our phones. And you just said you're working on an iPhone. This is what it looks like on an iPhone?

Dave Prosper: Yes, this is what it looks like on an iPhone 5.

Vivian White: Right.

Dave Prosper: Other devices will look a little different because their screen sizes and types will be a little different as well. Thanks for that.

Vivian White: Yes.

Dave Prosper: So, yes, this is kind of the basic and we're actually working on starting up some new printed documentation for everyone.

Vivian White: Right.

Dave Prosper: We are still ironing out a few designs, but - (unintelligible).

Vivian White: Yes, we're good.

Dave Prosper: So - but that's why we've kind of been waiting. We're writing up some stuff, but we're hoping to have a quick facts sheet for everyone by the time it launches and more in-depth stuff. As well as revising our videos as the site launches as well.

Vivian White: Right.

Dave Prosper: It's kind of a hefty effort. We're looking at the documentation and (unintelligible). So - okay. To wrap up this initial part I would just like to say that we're really excited to offer all these mobile options in addition to the upgrades for the rest of the site as we are really hoping it's going to help you manage your clubs and events more efficiently and bring more members of the general public and astronomy communities into the Night Sky Network and your clubs.

So we would also like to take this moment to thank NASA JPL for the funding that has made this initiative possible as well as our continued material support. We'd also like to thank our original web designers at (Moorebeck) and, of course, the fantastic web guru and programmer (Dave Martin) for all of his help in getting the site tested and ready.

And so that's our basic overview and be sure to add your events to the calendar and remember to keep your club's information up to date. And - so I'm sure there will be many questions. There a lot of changes in store and we'll flip our webcams back on I guess and open up the lines to our listeners. So operator if you could start the Q and A session please.

Vivian White: And we got a message here from (Tayo). And he said how are the clubs and event selected when the public comes to the club's and events page? So maybe we could go through that while we're waiting for questions?

Dave Prosper: Yes.

Coordinator: And actually if I may please go ahead and give the scripting just to our group. If you wish to ask a question please press star 1. You will need to unmute your phone and record your first and last name clearly when prompted. To withdrawal your question please press star 2.

Man: What was the?

Vivian White: Star 1 and then star 2?

Coordinator: Again, if you would like to ask a question please press star 1. You will need to unmute your line and record your first and last name clearly when prompted. One moment please for our first question.

Vivian White: Okay, (Tayo) asked how are the clubs and events selected when the public comes to the clubs and events page. Oh, I think I can answer that one. I think what you might be answering - asking - and let me know if this isn't it - it's queries for clubs and events within 100 miles and it just searches on the next few upcoming events.

So the first four are listed and then there's - after that it says more events and it takes you to the current calendar. I'm not sure if that's what you were asking. If not let me know.

Dave Prosper: We can show a more blown-up version of it here where - yes, it defaults to searching within 100 miles of your location. Within the past - events coming up within the next month.

Vivian White: Okay.

Dave Prosper: And displays the first few - just to keep the page from getting overwhelmed, but then afterwards you can scroll down and we can see a whole bunch of extra events.

Vivian White: Great. I'll answer just a couple of other things here. (David Ingram) - you asked is there a preferred way to collect photos and match them with signed-permissions published? That's a really good question. We don't have something specifically like that, but we do have - for each photo - we say there's a credit line. You can also attach files to each event. So if you wanted to have the signed permission slips and scan them you could attach them to events - that makes it available to the public or no.

Dave Prosper: You can make them available to the public by making your log file public.

Vivian White: Oh yes - you can keep them not...

Dave Prosper: Or you can keep them private.

Vivian White: You can keep them private by not making...

Dave Prosper: Where's that option?

Vivian White: Yes, not making the log public. Let me check and make sure that's true.

Dave Prosper: We will look.

Vivian White: Let's see - and the size limit for photos I believe is 500 gigabytes?

Dave Prosper: No, no, no, no - it's like - that's actually something we have to work on.

Vivian White: Oh I'm sorry - five megabytes.

Dave Prosper: There's a confusing option with that.

Vivian White: Okay?

Dave: So some - we're having an issue right now where the documentation says 5 megabytes per photo, but it seems right not to - something is up with the server. It wants a megabyte or less.

Vivian White: Okay.

Dave Prosper: But we can get that fixed up.

Vivian White: Probably get it up to five megabytes again - currently it is five megabytes.

Dave Prosper: It's supposed to be five megabytes and we want to bring it back to that.

Vivian White: Hopefully that will be the case. More than four events - it just lists the first four, but it has a place - right after the first four it says more events. So it lists them in calendar order.

Dave Prosper: Exactly - right here where it says events in your area.

Vivian White: Yes.

Dave Prosper: It just goes - I've got to minimize my thing here. It goes - and you can see more events right there.

Vivian White: Hold on one second it's not up yet.

Dave Prosper: Oh yes, too fast.

Vivian White: Okay.

Dave Prosper: But yes, when you see - it starts at four - then you - same with clubs. And with either one you can click on this more section here and then it brings you to the big giant events page. And you can scroll down and underneath the calendar is where all of the extra events are listed in your area - same with clubs. And actually it looks like a lot of these are in March. Yes.

Vivian White: So there are a few people waiting online to call in with a question. Why don't we go ahead and take some of those too?

Coordinator: Yes, absolutely. It looks like our first question is coming from Ms. Linda Price. Ms. Price your question is up at this time.

Linda Prince: All right - thank you. It's Linda Prince. I like the feature where when you enter an event you can now just click on a menu and get the month and the day - etcetera because it was always a nuisance to type in the date. However, many - I would say that most events occur the same day - they start and end on the same date. Is there an option where when you enter the start date - does the end date sort of default come in the same date so that you don't have to enter an end date?

Vivian White: The funny thing is you don't have to enter an end date and I think we might just put a little note on there to that affect. Because there's no end date required.

Linda Prince: Oh great.

Vivian White: You just have to enter a start date and I'll just make sure to put a note on this and it's a good point.

Dave Prosper: We'll double check to make sure that we test that to make sure it still works like that.

Vivian White: Yes, make sure it still works on this new site, but that's the way it's been in the past.

Linda Prince: Okay. One other thing - the search to get, you know, resources - I always found it very difficult and I would know that you have something in there that I want and I would try keywords and I would try - you know, a lot of times I couldn't find it. Is it going to be easier to find things?

Vivian White: Well probably not. Let me think - so right now...



Dave Prosper: It is a little cleaner.

Vivian White: It is a cleaner thing, but I think the last time that you had a problem was a - like a - the certificate I think for...

Linda Prince: For the photo release one?

Vivian White: No, let me think.

Dave Prosper: The certificates have been an issue just because don't have them available to the public.

Vivian White: Right. Right. Right. Maybe - yes, you can definitely type in a keyword and I don't know - I don't know that this is going to make it actually any easier, but if you kind of give us some ideas about what you're having trouble with - maybe we can figure out a way to make it more intuitive?

Linda Prince: I was looking for - I'm trying to think - something that I knew was in one of the manuals from the toolkits.

Dave Prosper: Oh.

Vivian White: Yes.

Linda Prince: I didn't want to have to go searching through the manual and I wanted - I don't remember specifically. I know I was looking for a photo release form and I think that's in the first toolkit.

Dave Prosper: Oh.

Vivian White: Oh okay. You know what - we don't have that separate right now and somebody else also just asked for that. So maybe we'll just make that a separate resource and you could type in photo release. That's a good point.

Linda Prince: Okay.

Dave Prosper: Yes.

Vivian White: Yes, because it is a part of our manual - you're right.

Dave Prosper: Yes and the PDF (unintelligible).

Linda Prince: I'd like to be able to just get that and not have to (unintelligible) the manual and, you know, find out what page it's on and print - you know?

Vivian White: Absolutely.

Dave Prosper: At least find something.

Vivian White: Oh - actually so it did.

Dave Prosper: But it wasn't the first thing I looked for. I definitely was like release form and it didn't get it, but I did find it under photos, but we're working on also redoing a lot of our tagging and search capabilities. So it will hopefully be better.

Another work around I've done actually is sometimes if I just can't find it I'll just go to Google and I'll type in Night Sky Network and then the thing for the resource and we might even consider at some point having a Google index possibly, but I don't know how security would like that.

Vivian White: Right - we haven't figured that out. Right - we have another wish list for our next round.

Dave Prosper: Exactly - we're always wishing.

Vivian White: We'll add that to it.

Dave Prosper: Yes.

Linda Prince: Great - thanks.

Vivian White: Yes, thank you for calling in.

Dave Prosper: Yes.

Vivian White: I have some comments here - Willie and Marie - they asked if there's a way to duplicate an event between two clubs if they're co-hosting an event - and there is not a way to do that. I'm sorry. I wish that we had that - right now it is set that each club is very separate. You have separate log-ins - I know you know this because you do it often.

Dave Prosper: Which can get confusing because if you're like us and you're in several clubs...

Vivian White: Right - Dave and I are in multiple clubs as well and understand.

Dave Prosper: I've logged events as the admin before and was like, "oops."

Vivian White: Exactly. Exactly. So...

Dave Prosper: Still actually the new look does help you - seems to show you're in the club better. Another thing we've actually been - as our usability testing has been going - if you've ever had what happens when - say you go to add your volunteer hours or you go to log an event. You think you click on the right event and you log everything away real good and you hit save and you look and then your list of events says oh you have two more events to log and you list them - wait - I just logged that - I logged the wrong event.

Vivian White: Yes.

Dave Prosper: So we're actually working on making that much more prominent and we're kind of trying to do little things like that to make it - but yes - like sharing between clubs at the moment.

Vivian White: Is not possible.

Dave Prosper: Not possible, but...

Vivian White: Yes.

Dave Prosper: Unfortunately.

Vivian White: You could certainly link to the other club if you wanted, but if you want it on both club calendars it does have to be logged separately. Sorry. I think we have more people waiting to call in. Do we have more callers online?

Dave Prosper: Okay.

Coordinator: Yes, our next - yes - our next question is coming from Mr. Stephen Ramsden and Mr. Ramsden your question is up at this time.

Stephen Ramsden: Hello everybody. How are you doing?

Dave Prosper: HI (unintelligible).

Stephen Ramsden: Hey, first off Stephen Ramsden and I'm from the Charlie Bates Solar Astronomy Project in Atlanta.

Vivian White: Hello, one of our heroes.

Stephen Ramsden: Hello hello. Thank you so much for all the hard work on the website. It looks absolutely fabulous. Great work.

Vivian White: Thank you thank you.

Stephen Ramsden: I can't wait for it to be live - most of my events are public schools that are not necessarily interested with being listed for the public and I feel like I've always disappointed you a little bit by logging them afterwards. I know that's not really the intention of the Night Sky Network, but is there anything different you'd like done with these events than what's available now? Because I'm pretty sure the intention is to log them beforehand and get the public involved.

Dave Prosper: You don't have to log them beforehand, but just to - you could even just do a real brief event entry. Like if you know that there's going to be a few events coming up you can just kind of make a little placeholder. Like we're going to have solar observing here or whatever and then the public at least gets to see them too, but you don't have to be incredibly detailed.

Stephen Ramsden: Right.

Dave Prosper: And even with logging - you don't have to do every single thing. It is - we do love all the extra information we get, but - yes, sometimes - especially if there's a lot of events - like this month there's a ton of events. And so we've just been giving kind of the basic link to a website for more info if they need it. You know - the directions to get there.

Stephen Ramsden: You are interested in seeing - because I do three or four - I'm retired now officially so I'm doing three or four a week. You would be interested in seeing those on a public calendar even if they weren't necessarily for the public to be invited to - just to show activity in the area?

Vivian White: And there's a real easy way to duplicate events. That's one of the easy things to do if you have something regular that goes on. I think he's going to pull that up right now. So if you go into My Clubs...

Dave Prosper: Let's look for...

Vivian White: Yes, then you can duplicate that. Oh - George Reynolds asked I'm a solar system ambassador, but has been remised in logging my events on the solar system ambassador site. Will my NSN events and hours link to the solar system ambassador site?

Dave Prosper: What a question.

Vivian White: Brilliant.

Dave Prosper: That would be great.

Vivian White: I'm so glad you thought of that - George we haven't had that question asked before - I don't think that I remember. Let me - see if we can work something out about that.

Dave: That would be cool.

Vivian White: That's not a bad - I mean that's a great idea. Let me see what we can do. It's not linked up currently, but we will see if we can make that happen.

Dave Prosper: So to duplicate an event - actually, like in one of my clubs - (Eastbay) (unintelligible) website and we always do a member's only viewing night every month. So rain or fog or shine - mostly fog sadly, but you go to the event and you can click duplicate this event.

Vivian White: Yes.

Dave Prosper: And so you can choose a series of options here. You can duplicate it on a weekly basis or a monthly basis or just like a particular day, but say what we do as often as you can see the first Sunday of every month or you can alternative every two months and so on. And you can end it too. So you don't accidentally make an event - we limit this so you can't duplicate events until 2100. So - which had happened.

Vivian White: Yes.

Dave Prosper: So yes - but this is a new way that you can - well this is kind of the older way, but it's a little cleaner looking to be able to duplicate your events.

Vivian White: Exactly. And you have a chance to change them if we - if you want, you know, to be different once you do that.

Dave Prosper: Exactly.

Vivian White: So you won't automatically create 10 events. You have the chance to edit them as you go.

Dave Prosper: Great - like for example, I'll submit it - this is staging and we can do what we want.

Vivian White: We can do whatever we want - it's fun to play around on the back side of this so it doesn't affect anything that happens when real thing.

Dave Prosper: We've actually been trying to break it for the past couple of months and it's not breaking - it's a lot harder to break now, which is good.

Vivian White: Right.

((Crosstalk))

Vivian White: Thanks for all your questions and we'll go ahead and do this while...

Dave Prosper: It takes a minute to actually generate the events.

Vivian White: Right because it - I don't know how many events you made, but it does take a minute to generate them on the backend.

Dave Prosper: 2012.



Vivian White: (Steven) did you have any other questions?

Stephen Ramsden: No, but thanks again for all the good work. And if I can send you some more resources for another solar kit just let me know. I'd love to.

Vivian White: Thank you so much for sharing with those.

Dave Prosper: Okay so you can see here - here's a list of the upcoming events. So you can toggle whichever one you want to change the specific date for or whatever. And then after this, you know, it sets them up and then you can individually title them whatever you wish.

Vivian White: Right - yes. So that's how you duplicate an event if you haven't done that before. Let's take some more callers.

Coordinator: Yes, our next question is coming from Ms. Teresa Lappin. Ms. Lappin your question is up at this time.

Teresa Lappin: Yes, I have actually two questions. One I put in on the chat line so you can answer that later. But I'm also wondering - you didn't show any of the membership, you know, creating new members and stuff. Has any of that changed?

Dave Prosper: It's all very much the same.

Teresa Lappin: Okay.

Vivian White: Yes, pretty similar.

Dave Prosper: Let's see - roster. Like say...

Teresa Lappin: It'd be nice if say people could have more than one email address and that seems to be a real kind of stumbling thing.

Vivian White: Yes. Can you put in...

Dave Prosper: I'll do a demo really quick - (unintelligible). Okay.

Vivian White: I don't know if you can currently do that. I wonder if you can put that in with a comma?

Dave Prosper: To mean - oh you mean like so they get an email to both addresses?

Vivian White: Yes.

Teresa Lappin: Typically for a husband and wife kind of thing.

Vivian White: Right.

Teresa Lappin: And it used to not work with a comma.

Vivian White: Okay

Dave Prosper: I bet it still doesn't. It's probably...

Vivian White: It probably doesn't, but let's see if we can make something like that happen.

Dave Prosper: Yes - like a radio button to allow multiple emails.

Vivian White: Right. Okay - good.

Dave Prosper: That's a really good idea.

Teresa Lappin: My other question on the chat line was about outreach resources.

Vivian White: Oh okay. Tell me again - oh I see it here. Is a search engine available to the public? Yes.

Dave Prosper: I'll show you what that looks like.

Vivian White: Yes. It's a simpler version that's available to the public. It's not every single search feature. At the present we don't have so many activities that if you searched on a topic it would be hard to find. So...

Dave Prosper: This is what you'll see as like a member of the public. You'll still get some keywords and we should add some more really.

Teresa Lappin: I'm sorry - say it again?

Dave Prosper: You'll get keywords and activity key. And you can still search for a lot of stuff, but yes. It's...

Vivian White: So go ahead on asteroids or something that's easy.

Dave Prosper: Asteroids?

Vivian White: Oh I'm sorry if you just choose the keywords.

Dave Prosper: Oh okay.

Vivian White: Sorry. Choose a keyword. If you look - there is something we have made a little bit simpler. Let's see - so if you look there are little key icons there. So it tells you what age it's appropriate for - whether it's inside or outside, day time or night time event. So hopefully that makes it a little bit easier. Because we're really listing - like asteroids I think maybe we have ten resources. So if you're looking for something on asteroids this should tell you a little bit.

Dave Prosper: We have a lot on asteroids.

Vivian White: Oh - we have a lot on asteroids. Yes.

Teresa Lappin: (Unintelligible) still?

Vivian White: Yes.

Teresa Lappin: Okay - can you add a little like a key so that people who look at it know what the little Christmas tree shape means?

Vivian White: Yes, so the key is to the right. Just under the...

Teresa Lappin: Oh I see it - never mind.

Vivian White: Yes, so it's right at the top.

Dave Prosper: We'll try and see if we can make it a little more prominent. It does kind of fade into the background.

Teresa Lappin: Yes.

Vivian White: Yes.

Teresa Lappin: Great - thank you so much. That'll help a lot with teachers and such.

Vivian White: Oh good. Good - thanks.

Dave Prosper: We are hoping to actually do some more work with Next Gen Science standards. It's sort of - right now it's a wish.

Vivian White: Yes.

Dave Prosper: But we're hoping to really start incorporating that.

Teresa Lappin: Yes, great - thanks.

Dave Prosper: You're welcome.

Vivian White: Thank you.

Coordinator: Our next question comes from Mr. Patrick O'Brien. Mr. O'Brien your question is up at this time.

Patrick O'Brien: Hey hey.

Vivian White: Hi Patrick.

Patrick O'Brien: Well hello. I figured out how to use the chat key and I was wondering if in addition if it's possible to use the phone to ask a question and obviously I just have the answer. And Vivian and David Prosper it looks like Citrix Webinar is outstanding. Because I graduated from the Air Force Academy and I majored in both Mathematics and in something called Computer Science years ago.

That was before everybody had computers and I thought if I wasn't able to become a pilot then I would fall back on something new called computers. And so that's the reason - and I'm calling because I'm wondering - I see six pictures and can anybody see - besides the six people what I'm doing right now?

Vivian White: Everybody sees us. Yes - everybody who is ever up here.

Patrick O'Brien: Okay so - and I have the cursor right above and what am I doing right now?

Vivian White: Oh we can't see what you're doing on your screen. We only get to see Dave's screen.

Patrick O'Brien: Oh, is that right? Well actually the cursor now has been paused. If you look at the top...

Vivian White: Wait you're paused now.

Patrick O'Brien: I see five pictures and one paused. Is that right?

Vivian White: Yes. Yes, that's right.

Patrick O'Brien: Should it be paused as opposed to - does everybody see that - besides the six people and then I'm going to turn that back on. And my question is - is the cursor still above my head? Or do you...

Vivian White: We can't see any of it.

Dave Prosper: We can only see your face. We can't see your screen.

Patrick O'Brien: Is that right? So when I sit down like this - like some people are doing - I don't think you're able to see my chin, but now when I sit up like this now you can see my face. Is that what everybody sees?

Vivian White: Yes, we've got you. And so it only allows six people on right now. And usually it would just be the two of us - or whoever is giving the presentation. We're thinking about doing something along these lines to have webinars as our monthly...

Dave Prosper: Bi-monthly.

Vivian White: Bi-monthly teleconferences. Just so you can see the speaker talking. We thought it would be a little more 21st century.

Dave Prosper: So keep up with - officially had a hangout-athon yesterday and all weekend really. Because everyone with a webcam and showing stuff off.

Vivian White: Right.

Patrick O'Brien: My last question is - my last question is - can - do you have the capability to show more than six people?

Dave Prosper: No - it's a limit of the software.

Patrick O'Brien: Everybody see multiple or is the six people maximum?

Vivian White: Six people maximum for this.

Dave Prosper: Yes, it doesn't rotate like - Google Hangouts will automatically rotate through if you set it to do that.

Vivian White: Right.

Dave Prosper: But this one has kind of got a hard limit.

Vivian White: Yes, it's great. It's pretty nice. New software happening.

Patrick O'Brien: Well thanks a lot Vivian and David Prosper. I'm not going to say the other (David) because I don't know him, but I see a picture.

Dave Prosper: He's (unintelligible) background.

Patrick O'Brien: He just - he's no longer on the six - I only see five people now, but the other (David) must have turned himself off.

Dave Prosper: Oh okay.

Vivian White: Thanks Patrick.

Patrick O'Brien: (Unintelligible) for turning himself off.

Dave Prosper: I think we're getting near the end.

Vivian White: Yes.

Patrick O'Brien: You only have six more minutes, but don't forget...

Vivian White: I think we can get a couple of more questions in there.

Dave Prosper: And do our prize.



Vivian White: Yes, we can't forget the prize. Okay thanks Patrick.

Patrick O'Brien: Well thanks a lot and I'm standing by to get a free gift.

Vivian White: Okay great.

Patrick O'Brien: (Unintelligible).

Dave Prosper: Okay, do we have any more questions on the phone?

Vivian White: Do we have anybody else left?

Coordinator: Our final question comes from Mr. Theo Ramakers. Your question is up at this time.

Theo Ramakers: Hi Vivian and (David). Great presentation and a great site. My question wasn't answered. I read that there are - when you come to the clubs and events page that there are four clubs being shown within the range of 100 miles, but it didn't tell me whether it was in distance from the IP address that has been detected where the address comes from or if it is an alphabetical form.

Vivian White: Oh. It's in distance.

Dave Prosper: It is - on a phone depending on how you have our location setup it will use the GPS and...

Theo Ramakers: From the site - form the location that you request?

Vivian White: Right - or the zip code.

Dave Prosper: Actually on a lot of newer browsers we've noticed - and actually on the iPhone if you have the recent security update it will actually prompt you. So do you want to allow location feature or is this widget to offer it and you also have the option to deny it too if you want.

Theo Ramakers: All right. Thank you.

Dave Prosper: You're welcome.

Vivian White: Great. Cool. I think that is probably about it. If you guys have more questions feel free to email us. We're always happy to answer questions. I'm so surprised nobody asked - when is it going to be live? It's not live yet. Soon.

Dave Prosper: Yes.

Vivian White: Is our answer. We were hoping...

Dave Prosper: The old software gem.

Vivian White: When is that...

Dave Prosper: The week after next.

Vivian White: The week after next. Hopefully even before that. We were hoping it was going to be ready by now, but we're still working - we want to get you a bug free site. So we're working it out. And hopefully within a week or two it really should be live - in May for sure.

Dave Prosper: And when it goes live there will be - we'll try not to have any bugs, but if you find any send your reports to [nightskyinfo@astrosociety.org](mailto:nightskyinfo@astrosociety.org) and we'll get to it as soon as we can. And actually do we want to start the prize drawing?

Vivian White: Yes.

Dave Prosper: Cool. Operator if you'd like - if you could give our lucky seventh caller a chance to win Observatories to the Southwest. Can you let them know how to dial-in for that?

Coordinator: Yes, absolutely. Again, if you'd like to queue up for the prize please press star 1 on your touchtone phone and you will need to unmute your line and record your first and last name please. Again, that's star 1. You will need to unmute your line and record your first and last name clearly.

Vivian White: Thanks so much you guy for joining us. We were thinking we were going to be talking to ourselves tonight. And that it's good to see all out there. Thanks for calling in.

Dave Prosper: Yes.

Coordinator: And Ms. White?

Vivian White: Yes?

Coordinator: Would you like to do the honors?

Vivian White: Sure - let's see. Who is number one, two, three, four, five, six - seven. Marie Lott.

Dave Prosper: Hey hey.

Vivian White: Hey Marie can you share your screen so we can see you?

Dave Prosper: Or webcam.

Vivian White: Yes, the webcam. If you have a webcam I'm going to - oh thanks so much you guys. Marie, if you're on and you have a webcam let's share it. We will see you. Congratulations you won The Observatories of the Southwest - congratulations Marie. We're happy to send that. We'll be sending it out to you pretty soon.

Marie Lott: Great - thank you.

Vivian White: Thank you. Thanks so much everybody.

Dave Prosper: And I guess that's it. That's all for tonight. You can find this telecom as long as many others in the Night Sky Network under astronomy activities. Just search for telecom. Tonight's presentation with full audio and written transcripts as well as a movie of this presentation will be posted by the end of this week - pending my computer cooperates with that.

Good night everyone and keep looking up and I hope your skies are clear.

Vivian White: Thanks everybody.

Dave Prosper: Good night.

Vivian White: Good night.

Coordinator: This concludes today's conference. You may disconnect all lines at this time.  
Again, this concludes today's conference. You may disconnect all lines at this time. Thank you.

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